

National Environmental Achievement Track

Application Form

Northern Indiana Fuel and Light

Name of facility

NISource, Inc.

Name of parent company (if any)

200 East 7th Street

Street address

Street address (continued)

Auburn, IN 46706

City/State/Zip code

Give us information about your contact person for the
National Environmental Achievement Track Program.

Name David S. Mannia

Title Environmental Analyst

Phone (219) 284-2262

Fax (219) 284-2150

E-mail dsmanmia@nisource.com

Why do we need this information?

EPA needs background information on your facility to evaluate your application.

What do you need to do?

- Provide background information on your facility.
- Identify your environmental requirements.

Section A

Tell us about your facility.

1 What do you do or make at your facility?

We distribute natural gas to 34,000 customers in Northeastern Indiana. We also provide and service natural gas appliances to our natural gas customers. Our service area includes Auburn, Angola and Kendalville, IN.

2 List the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code(s) or North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes that you use to classify business at your facility.

SIC
4923

NAICS
22121

3 Does your company meet the Small Business Administration definition of a small business for your sector?

☐ Yes

☒ No

4 How many employees (full-time equivalents) currently work at your facility?

☐ Fewer than 50

☒ 50-99

☐ 100-499

☐ 500-1,000

☐ More than 1,000

5 Does your facility have an EPA ID number(s)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, list in the right-hand column.

IND 984975672

6 Identify the environmental requirements that apply to your facility. Use the Environmental Requirements Checklist, at the back of the instructions, as a reference. List your requirements to the right *or* enclose a completed Checklist with your application.

Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste--
Characteristic Waste (40 CFR 261)
Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous
Waste--Manifesting, Pre-Transportation
Requirements, Record Keeping/reporting (40 CFR
262)
Control of Pollution by Oil and Hazardous
Substances (33 CFR 153)
Designation of Reportable Quantities and
Notification of Hazardous Materials Spill (40 CFR
302)
Hazardous Materials Transportation Regulations (49
CFR 172-173)
Worker Right-to-Know Regulations (29 CFR
1910.1200)
Community Right-to-Know Regulations (40 cFR 350-
372)
PCB Distribution Use, Storage and Disposal (40 CFR
761)
Indiana Voluntary Remediation Program

7 Check the appropriate box in the right-hand column.

☒ I've listed the requirements above.

☐ I've enclosed the Checklist with my application.

8 Optional: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your facility?

We have taken a number of steps to reduce our environmental impact which also reduce the number of regulations which apply to our facility. For example, we discontinued the use of chlorinated solvents to clean meters which eliminated the generation of contaminated rags. In 1996, we removed our UST's, which were associated with motor fuel dispensing, and now buy fuel at commercial facilities.

Our sister companies - Columbia Gas Transmission and Bay States Gas - won the EPA Natural Gas Star "Partner of the Year" awards respectively for 2000. We at NIFL hope to share the experiences and

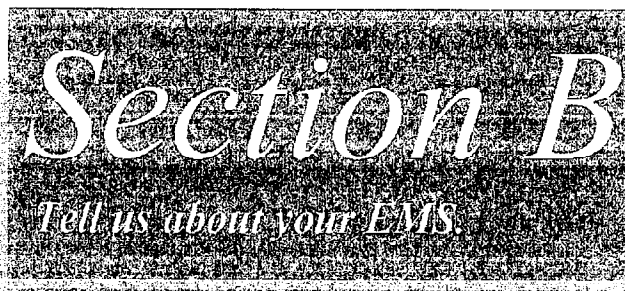
best practice opportunities with our sister companies as we evaluate and consider our approach to the EPA Natural Gas Star program for 2001.

Why do we need this information?

Facilities must have an operating Environmental Management System (EMS) that meets certain requirements.

What do you need to do?

- Confirm that your EMS meets the Achievement Track requirements
- Tell us if you have completed a self-assessment or have had a third-party assessment of your EMS.



1 Check **yes** if your EMS meets the requirements for each element below as defined in the instructions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a. Environmental policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| b. Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| c. Implementation and operation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| d. Checking and corrective action | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |
| e. Management review | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |

2 Have you completed at least one EMS cycle (plan-do-check-act)? ☒ Yes

3 Did this cycle include both an EMS and a compliance audit? ☒ Yes

4 Have you completed an objective self-assessment or third-party assessment of your EMS? ☒ Yes

If yes, what method of EMS assessment did you use?

☐ Self-assessment

☐ GEMI

☐ Other

☐ CEMP

☒ Third-party assessment

☒ ISO 14001 Certification

☐ Other

Why do we need this information?

Facilities must show that they are committed to improving their environmental performance. This means that you can describe past achievements and will make future commitments.

What do you need to do?

Refer to the Environmental Performance Table in the instructions to answer questions 1 and 2.

Section C

Tell us about your past

achievements and future

commitments.

- 1 Describe your past achievements for at least two environmental aspects. If you need more space than is provided, attach copies of this page.**

Note to small facilities: If you qualify as a small facility as defined in the instructions, you are required to report past achievement for at least one environmental aspect.

First aspect you've selected

What aspect have you selected?	What was the previous level (2 years ago)?		What is the current level?	
	Quantity	Units	Quantity	Units
Preservation/Restoration - Habitat Impacts	0	acres	60	acres

i. How is the current level an improvement over the previous level?

One of the programs that our parent company (NiSource) has used effectively is the Environmental Challenge Fund. The Fund is designed to preserve, protect, and enhance the environment in the NiSource service territory - including NIF&L. The Fund matches employee contributions (e.g. NIF&L employees) with corporate dollars (\$1/\$1.5) and selects local projects (with schools, agencies, etc.) to implement environmental enhancement projects. The funds help pay for education and construction materials, contractors, and service work.

In 2000, there were four NIF&L area wetland restoration and protection projects (over 60 acres total).

- Cline Lake Fen Prairie Restoration - LaGrange Co., IN
- Reforestation of the Martin Tract - Steuben, Co., IN
- Cedar Creek Wildlife Project - DeKalb Co., IN
- DeKalb County Environmental Education Center - DeKalb Co., IN

ii. How did you achieve this improvement?

This improvement was achieved through the NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund and utilized company employees (NIFL and NiSource personnel), agency personnel, environmental representatives, and community representatives. All employees were educated and informed about the potential benefits of habitat preservation and restoration.

Second aspect you've selected

What aspect have you selected?	What was the previous level (2 years ago)?		What is the current level?	
Management of Drums Potentially Containing Hazardous Waste	Quantity 50+	Units	Quantity <10	Units
<p>i. How is the current level an improvement over the previous level?</p> <p>The current level has significantly reduced the number of potentially hazardous drums located on the site. This reduces the potential for spills and reduces the possibility of expanding the volume of hazardous waste by adding non-hazardous waste.</p> <p>ii. How did you achieve this improvement?</p> <p>By establishing an aggressive Drum Management Program accompanied by employee training to address the issue and instigating an identification program to eliminate the possibility of unknown containers being located on the property.</p>				

- 2 Select at least four environmental aspects (no more than two from any one category) from the Environmental Performance Table in the instructions and then tell us about your future commitments. If you need more space than is provided, attach copies of this section.

Note to small facilities: If you are a small facility, you are required to make commitments for at least two environmental aspects in two different categories.

First aspect you've selected

a. What is the aspect?

Total Energy Use

b. Is this aspect identified as significant in your EMS?

☐ Yes ☒ No

c. What is the current level? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.

☒ Option A:
Absolute value

☐ Option B:
In terms of
units of production
or output

99 mmbtu/yr average
usage per residential
customer - adjusted for
degree days
(Quantity/Units)

- (Quantity/Units)
- d. What is the improvement you are committing to over the next three years? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value a reduction of 1 mmbtu/yr average usage per residential customer - adjusted for degree days. (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)

- (Quantity/Units)
- e. How will you achieve this improvement?
- Since 1983, NIF&L has provided customers with tips to conserve energy and promoted energy efficient appliances. These efforts have laid the groundwork for a reduction of 50 mmbtu/yr per residential customer over that period. Next year, we are planning a program (\$20,000) to advertise and educate our customers on the importance of energy conservation that we believe will accomplish our environmental goals.

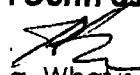
Second aspect you've selected

- a. What is the aspect?
- Emissions of Toxics (third party - off-site)
- b. Is this aspect identified as significant in your EMS?
- ☒ Yes ☐ No
- c. What is the current level? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value 200 major appliances / year (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)
- d. What is the improvement you are committing to over the next three years? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value 20 more major appliances/ year* (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)
- e. How will you achieve this improvement?
- As part of our commitment to eliminate mercury from the environment, NIF&L removes mercury containing devices from all major household appliances (e.g. water heaters, ranges, dryers, etc collected from residential customers) prior to recycling the items. NIF&L reduces the risk of potential contamination due to spills or rupture. In addition, by removing a source of mercury from the scrap metal feedstock (used to make new steel), air emissions of mercury are reduced.

Third aspect you've selected

- a. What is the aspect? Total Solid Waste
- b. Is this aspect identified as significant in your EMS? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- c. What is the current level? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value 4 tons/yr recycled (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)
- d. What is the improvement you are committing to over the next three years? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value 5 tons/yr recycled (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)
- e. How will you achieve this improvement? As part of the overall strategy to reduce the amount of non-hazardous solid wastes landfilled the facility will continue to implement a cardboard recycling program. A annual goal of 5 tons/year of cardboard year will help to reduce the landfill space that is used in communities that we operate in. In addition to the cardboard program, a white paper source redection initiative(from electronic filing, GIS, etc.) is underway.

Fourth aspect you've selected

- 
a. What is the aspect? Hazardous Waste - Toxicity Reduction
- b. Is this aspect identified as significant in your EMS? ☐ Yes ☒ No
- c. What is the current level? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value Insignificant diversion of materials in previous years recycled (Quantity/Units)
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output (Quantity/Units)
- d. What is the improvement you are committing to over the next three years? You may choose to state this as an absolute value or in terms of units of production or output.
- ☒ Option A: Absolute value 100 floresent bulbs
- ☐ Option B: In terms of units of production or output 15 lead/acid, NiCad, & LI batteries recycled (Quantity/Units)
- (Quantity/Units)

e. How will you achieve this improvement?

Improvements in the segregation of materials for recycling through improved employee awareness and training. Also, working to make the recycling program as easy as possible for employees and periodically auditing dumpsters and providing reinstruction as appropriate to minimize the disposal of recyclable materials.

Why do we need this information?

Facilities must demonstrate their commitment to public outreach and performance reporting. You should have appropriate mechanisms in place to identify community concerns, to communicate with the public, and to provide information on your environmental performance.

Section D

Tell us about your public

What do you need to do?

- Describe your approach to public outreach.
- List three references who are familiar with your facility.

1 How do you identify and respond to community concerns?

Our approach to addressing community concerns is through a comprehensive community relations plan. Under this plan, citizens are not only informed of any environmental matters before they become issues, but are directed to a number of informed sources should they have questions or concerns or require additional information.

2 How do you inform community members of important matters that affect them?

One aspect of informing the community under the Plan is to develop a complete list of all parties who may be interested or affected by the work under this aspect. This list includes, but is not limited to State and local elected officials, regulatory agencies, community leaders, business leaders, local environmental groups, and citizens who may live or work adjacent to project.

Significant persons on the list are then contacted to inform them of the upcoming work and to solicit their input on the work. These interviews also allow us to identify other parties who have an interest in the work.

Mailings outlining details of the project are made at various steps of the investigation and remediation process. In addition, local press releases appear in the paper and on local radio stations.

Copies of all relevant documents, such as work plans, are placed in the resource center of the local library. Phone numbers of individuals familiar with the project who can further define the issues are also provided.

3 How will you make the Achievement Track Annual Performance Report available to the public?

☒ Website www.nisource.com

☒ Newspaper

☐ Open Houses

☐ Other

4 Are there any ongoing citizen suits against your facility? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, describe briefly in the right-hand column.

5 List references below

	Organization	Name	Phone number
Representative of a Community/Citizen Group	City of Auburn Indiana	Steve Bruns	219-925-8288
State/Local Regulator	Indiana Department of Environmental Management	Mr. Damon Ridley	317-234-0972
Other community/local reference	Owner, Tri-State Memorials	Jeff Foulks	219-925-2805

Section E

Application and Registration Statement

On behalf of Northern Indiana Fuel and Light
[my facility],

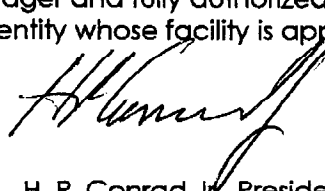
I certify that

- I have read and agree to the terms and conditions, as specified in the *National Environmental Achievement Track Program Description* and in the *Application Instructions*;
- I have personally examined and am familiar with the information contained in this Application (including, if attached, the Environmental Requirements Checklist). The information contained in this Application is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, true, accurate, and complete, and I have no reason to believe the facility would not meet all program requirements;
- My facility has an environmental management system (EMS), as defined in the Achievement Track EMS requirements, including systems to maintain compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements, in place at the facility, and the EMS will be maintained for the duration of the facility's participation in the program;
- My facility has conducted an objective assessment of its compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements, and the facility has corrected all identified instances of potential or actual noncompliance;
- Based on the foregoing compliance assessment and subsequent corrective actions (if any were necessary), my facility is, to the best of my knowledge and based on reasonable inquiry, currently in compliance with applicable federal, state, tribal, and local environmental requirements.

I agree that EPA's decision whether to accept participants into or remove them from the National Environmental Achievement Track is wholly discretionary, and I waive any right that may exist under any law to challenge EPA's acceptance or removal decision.

I am the senior facility manager and fully authorized to execute this statement on behalf of the corporation or other legal entity whose facility is applying to this program.

Signature/Date

 12-5-2000

Printed Name/Title H. P. Conrad Jr., President

Facility Name Northern Indiana Fuel and Light, A NiSource Company

Facility Street Address ²²⁰
~~200~~ E. 7th Street, Auburn, IN 46706

Facility ID Numbers IND 984975672

The National Environmental Performance Track is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program. Please direct inquiries to 1-888-339-PTRK or e-mail ptrack@indecon.com. Mail completed applications to:

The Performance Track Information Center
c/o Industrial Economics Incorporated
2067 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140